



اوتوريٽي ڪيٽيگري ڪملا مٿن
ڪميٽي ڊان عالم سڪيٽر
Safety, Health and Environment
National Authority

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH NOTICE (WSHN)

TOPIC Workplace Injuries related to The Use of Cutting Machinery				Reference Number 2025/WSHN/04
Approved by: Acting Director of Compliance and International Division	Endorsed by: Chief Executive Officer	Issue date: 3 September 2025	Expiry date: None	Revision No: 1

The Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA) has observed a concerning trend of workplace incidents involving various types of cutting machines across multiple industries. This includes, but is not limited to, grinders, circular saws, table saws, cutting torches, meat cutting machines, chainsaws and wood shaving machines.

INCIDENT STATISTICS

Between **February 2022 and March 2025**, **SHENA** recorded a **total of 34 cutting-machine incidents**, causing serious injuries ranging from deep lacerations to loss of fingers and eye infections. Examples of such incidents are as follows:

- one worker cutting plywood came into contact with the circular rotating blade of a saw machine, amputating two fingers;
- a worker suffering from fatigue and loss of focus, handling a wood shaving machine with a concealed blade, had cut his thumb; and
- an untrained worker who had volunteered to use a circular grinder to cut a steel bar, without the supervisor's knowledge. After reflexively touching the hot bar, his left hand slipped into the grinder's active disc, resulting in a deep laceration on his left forearm with significant bleeding.

Most incidents occur in the **construction, manufacturing and food processing industry**.

KEY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The key contributing factors of these incidents include, but are not limited to;

- Improper tool handling or loss of control
- Unauthorised personnel performing tasks
- Inadequate training and experience
- Working while fatigued or distracted
- Lack of personal protective equipment (PPE) or incorrectly worn PPE
- Tools not switched off during maintenance
- Poor equipment quality due to lack of maintenance
- Lack of supervision

RECOMMENDED CONTROL MEASURES

SHENA strongly urges all workplaces utilising cutting machines to **immediately review their current practices and implement the necessary measures** to ensure workers' safety. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Risk Assessment and Controls

- Conduct a task-specific risk assessment associated with the use of cutting equipment or machines at the workplace, including regular maintenance of them.
- Identify potential hazards such as unexpected backwards force, flying objects, or blade contact.
- Implement suitable and effective engineering controls (e.g., blade guards, emergency stop switches, anti-kickback features).
- Manage worker fatigue by scheduling regular rest breaks, particularly during extended or physically demanding tasks.

2. Safe Work Procedures

- Develop and implement Safe Work Procedures (SWPs) for all cutting tasks.
- Prohibit unauthorised or untrained personnel from operating cutting equipment or machinery.
- Include start-up and shut-down protocols, particularly for maintenance or blade replacement.
- Inspect cutting tools and equipment to identify and address any defects before use.

3. Training and Supervision

- Provide both initial and refresher training on machine-specific safety protocols.
- Ensure close supervision of any new or high-risk activities.
- Emphasise human factors such as fatigue and distraction in toolbox talks.
- Ensure the operator is thoroughly familiar with the emergency response procedures in case of any malfunction or incident during machine operation.

4. Good Housekeeping and Work Area Conditions

- Maintain clean and unobstructed work areas around cutting operations to help control or eliminate potential workplace hazards.
- Ensure stable work surfaces and sufficient lighting to avoid trip hazards or accidental slips.

5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Provide and ensure mandatory use of appropriate PPEs such as cut-resistant gloves, safety goggles/face shields, protective footwear, and other PPE as appropriate.
- Regularly inspect PPE for damage and replace when necessary.

By implementing these preventive measures, workplaces can enhance employee safety, reduce risks and injuries, and comply with workplace safety and health standards.

For further information and guidance on machinery safety, refer to the **Industry Guidance Note on Machinery Safety (Ref: 2024/IGN/03)**, available on the SHENA website at this [link](#). This guidance supports compliance with relevant legislation and outlines best practices in the industry.

All principals, employers, occupiers, self-employed persons, and persons at work are hereby reminded to comply, at all times, with the Workplace Safety and Health Act, Chapter 277 and its subsidiary regulations to ensure that any risks to persons, assets and the environment are As Low As is Reasonably Practicable (**ALARP**).

For further clarification on this matter, please submit your enquiries by clicking “General Enquiries” at the SHENA website: www.shena.gov.bn or contact the SHENA office on the general line at **+673 238 2000** anytime within the office hours. SHENA would like to thank all relevant stakeholders for their cooperation in ensuring Brunei Darussalam is a safe place to work and live.

END